

□ 1230

HONORING THE CORPUS CHRISTI VETERANS BAND

(Mr. FARENTHOLD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the Corpus Christi Veterans Band, under the direction of Ram Chavez, for being awarded Advocate of the Year by Corpus Christi Mayor's Committee for Veterans Affairs. The Corpus Christi Veterans Band performs all around the Coastal Bend to honor and pay tribute to America's military troops and veterans.

The Corpus Christi Veterans Band has been performing for over 20 years at various ceremonies, receptions, tributes, and funerals and has demonstrated sincere dedication to honoring south Texas veterans. Their flag ceremony is one of the most moving performances I have ever attended. The men and women of the band personally fund their group to inspire patriotism and remind Americans of the courage and sacrifices that our servicemen and -women make to keep this great Nation free.

Their constant dedication and support of our veterans, our community, and our Nation is one that every American can learn from. I'm proud to represent such a fine group of American patriots, the Corpus Christi Veterans Band.

POLLUTING AIR AND WATER WILL NOT CREATE JOBS

(Mr. HIMES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HIMES. Madam Speaker, under pressure from the American people, the Republican majority in this House is running around with 15 or 20 bills that they claim to be jobs bills which, of course, they are not. If you look at them, you will see that they are bills that allow polluters to dirty our waters and to fill our air with toxins.

Now, the Bureau of Labor Statistics, which actually studies this stuff, asks employers, Why are you not hiring? Why have you gotten rid of people? Nowhere in those answers do we hear the words "too much regulation." It's a canard. Bruce Bartlett, conservative economist and member of the Reagan administration, said that the Republican Party is taking advantage of the need for jobs to push a deregulatory agenda.

It is time to get serious about jobs and not try to fool the American people that filling our water with toxins and making our air polluted is somehow good for this country or good for jobs.

OCCUPY WALL STREET PROTESTS

(Mr. McDERMOTT asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. McDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, 8 days from now is Thanksgiving. We're all going to sit down to a nice plump turkey and enjoy ourselves.

Well, not everybody. All across this Nation, we're seeing people protest. They're young people, middle-aged people, and older people—even parents with kids—and these folks are mad. They're seeing Wall Street companies profit after getting us into the economic mess we have; and, at the same time, they're among the millions of people in this country who are unemployed, that are still without a job. There are four people looking for every job out there. It's not easy. And Congress, the Republicans, are sitting on their hands again. We're coming up to the end of the year.

I want my Republican colleagues to take notice: If you continue to push the unemployed and struggling Americans and, instead, focus on tax breaks for corporations and the wealthy, the Occupy movement will be in your districts, on your doorsteps next November. Unemployment benefits should be extended immediately.

EMERGENCY UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION EXTENSION

(Mr. PETERS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PETERS. I rise today in support of H.R. 3345, an act to continue the current Federal unemployment programs through next year. If Congress doesn't act by the end of the year, Americans who have lost their jobs through no fault of their own will begin losing their unemployment benefits in January. Tens of thousands of Michiganders will lose their benefits by February. These benefits are their lifeline for necessities like groceries, utilities, and rent or mortgage payments. Once these families can no longer pay for basic necessities, it will create a ripple effect, costing nearly a million U.S. jobs nationwide.

Poverty is at its highest level since 1993, and middle class household incomes are at their lowest level since 1997. Unemployment benefits have kept over 3 million Americans, including 1 million children, out of poverty last year. And now the Republicans are willing to let these necessary benefits expire.

Madam Speaker, as we approach the holiday season and millions of Americans are worried about paying their rent, I urge my colleagues to support this bill and keep millions of Americans out of poverty.

TAKING CARE OF VULNERABLE AMERICANS

(Mr. RANGEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RANGEL. My colleagues, some of you may have read that the protesters at Wall Street are now being subjected to attacks by the police and law enforcement for loitering and other violations. There is no question in anyone's mind that the right to free speech has restrictions and it's not an open end and we have to be considerate of the people who are adversely affected. But there is also a moral issue, in addition to the constitutional issue, that no one can challenge that these protesters have brought to the attention of the American people: the fact that we have a moral obligation to take care of those people who are vulnerable, take care of those people who are sick, take care of the people that are aged and our children, not just before birth but after birth. The fact that we are talking about turning these questions over to 12 Members of Congress—it's not just unconstitutional; it is immoral.

So I'm calling on the spiritual leaders of our country: Don't leave this vacuum. Bring in the Catholics and Protestants and all the religions to say there's something wrong with the formula that we have for the poor.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE EXTENSION

(Mr. LEWIS of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, recently Atlanta Magazine gave a voice to the jobless in America. The words of one person speaks for millions. "Unemployment dehumanized the real person," one American writes. "You lose the essence of your identity and value. You become a number, a label, a resume, a failure, a defect, desperate, poor, and separated from society. Being unemployed is to be silently disrespected, on par with being homeless, mentally ill, or addicted."

Today we speak for millions of Americans who will be pushed to the edges of our society, locked out and left behind, if we fail to act.

The jobless in America elected us so that they would have a voice in these debates. They are not points on a graph or numbers on a page. They are human beings. We must not abandon the people of this Nation. We must pass the unemployment insurance extension and do it without delay.

Wake up, Congress. Wake up, and do what is right.

LACK OF JOBS, NOT LACK OF DESIRE

(Mr. DOGGETT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DOGGETT. As families gather this next week for Thanksgiving, some 6 million Americans will be left wondering whether they will be able to secure a job before their Federal unemployment coverage expires. They are

people like Jesse, a retired Navy veteran in San Antonio who has applied for over 300 jobs unsuccessfully.

Sadly, some Republicans continue to blame the unemployment problem on the unemployed, even though there are about four people for every job opening in America today. Too many remain jobless, not for lack of wanting to work, but for a lack of work.

Let's continue to encourage more job creation. But for those who lack a job, we also must preserve the lifeline of extended unemployment benefits. It's only the turkey that ought to be carved at Thanksgiving, not the unemployed's ability to share in the bounty of America.

□ 1240

NATIONAL RIGHT-TO-CARRY RECIPROCITY ACT

(Mr. ALTMIRE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ALTMIRE. Madam Speaker, today the House considers the National Right-to-Carry Reciprocity Act. I'm a proud cosponsor of this bill because it will protect Americans' Second Amendment rights by allowing citizens who have a valid permit to carry a firearm in any State in the country with a concealed carry law. The Second Amendment applies to law-abiding citizens all across America, and this reciprocity act will protect Americans' rights as they travel throughout the country.

Law-abiding citizens in western Pennsylvania should be allowed to exercise their constitutional rights even when they leave the Commonwealth's borders. All Americans have an individual right to bear arms that is protected by the Constitution.

I urge my colleagues to support the Second Amendment and vote for the National Right-to-Carry Reciprocity Act.

JOB CREATION

(Mr. LANGEVIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LANGEVIN. Madam Speaker, first of all, I want to join with my colleague from Rhode Island, Mr. CICILLINE, in extending my condolences to the family of Julius Michaelson, former attorney general of Rhode Island, a dedicated public servant, someone who truly made a difference to the people of our State. He made a difference, and he will be greatly missed.

Madam Speaker, next week Americans will be celebrating Thanksgiving with their families. Unfortunately, far too many will be preoccupied with the uncertainty of being unemployed and finding ways just to put food on the table.

Our country currently has a 9 percent unemployment rate, and there are four

unemployed workers for every open job right now. In my home State of Rhode Island, our unemployment rate continues to hold steady above the national average at 10.5 percent.

Madam Speaker, where is the urgency on job creation? The House just returned from its 11th scheduled recess of the year. With only 45 days left until the end of the year, the Republican-led House has failed to take any meaningful action to spur job creation this year.

Our constituents deserve better than this. The American people are demanding more than this. Congress must put partisan politics aside and focus on growing our economy and creating new job opportunities and getting this country back on track. It is our obligation to do this, and we need to do it now.

DETROIT JOBS TRUST FUND

(Mr. CLARKE of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CLARKE of Michigan. Madam Speaker, I am very concerned about reports that the city of Detroit may be running out of money as early as April of next year.

One of the problems Detroit is facing is that too many of our tax dollars are going to pay off debt owed by the city and owed by the schools at the very time we need to put more police officers, more firefighters, and more emergency medical providers on the street; at a time when we need to hire more school teachers and open more schools that will truly educate and graduate our young people.

That's why I'm urging this Congress, this House specifically, to adopt the Detroit Jobs Trust Fund. And I want to thank you personally, Madam Speaker, for the leadership and vision in supporting this legislation which would allow Federal tax dollars paid by Detroiters to be invested in Detroit, invested to cut taxes to make our streets safer and our schools stronger. This will not only help put Detroiters back to work; it will help our country because when you rebuild Detroit, you renew America.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 43 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 1303

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. MILLER of Michigan) at 1 o'clock and 3 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on the motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Any record vote on the postponed question will be taken later.

3% WITHHOLDING REPEAL AND JOB CREATION ACT

Mr. CAMP. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 674) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the imposition of 3 percent withholding on certain payments made to vendors by government entities, to modify the calculation of modified adjusted gross income for purposes of determining eligibility for certain healthcare-related programs, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the Senate amendment is as follows:

Senate amendment:

Strike title II and insert the following:

TITLE II—VOW TO HIRE HEROES

Sec. 201. Short title.

Subtitle A—Retraining Veterans

Sec. 211. Veterans retraining assistance program.

Subtitle B—Improving the Transition Assistance Program

Sec. 221. Mandatory participation of members of the Armed Forces in the Transition Assistance Program of Department of Defense.

Sec. 222. Individualized assessment for members of the Armed Forces under transition assistance on equivalence between skills developed in military occupational specialties and qualifications required for civilian employment with the private sector.

Sec. 223. Transition Assistance Program contracting.

Sec. 224. Contracts with private entities to assist in carrying out Transition Assistance Program of Department of Defense.

Sec. 225. Improved access to apprenticeship programs for members of the Armed Forces who are being separated from active duty or retired.

Sec. 226. Comptroller General review.

Subtitle C—Improving the Transition of Veterans to Civilian Employment

Sec. 231. Two-year extension of authority of Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide rehabilitation and vocational benefits to members of the Armed Forces with severe injuries or illnesses.

Sec. 232. Expansion of authority of Secretary of Veterans Affairs to pay employers for providing on-job training to veterans who have not been rehabilitated to point of employability.

Sec. 233. Training and rehabilitation for veterans with service-connected disabilities who have exhausted rights to unemployment benefits under State law.